

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Confirmation No. 3379

Mitsuaki OSHIMA et al.

Docket No. 2000_1422

Serial No. 09/686,466

Group Art Unit 2634

Filed October 12, 2000

Examiner A. Le

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Patentees request consideration of [X] the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and/or [] the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 and each U.S. patent application listed below is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for each reference previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in prior parent application Serial No.

1a. [] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the aboveentitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. [X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1) [X] the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or
- (2) [] the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.
- 1c. [] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

- 2. It is hereby certified
 - a. [X] that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
 - b. [] that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.
- 3. [] Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.
- 4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
 - a. [] a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

- b. [] a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
- c. [] the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
- d. [X] the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- e. [X] the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:

JPA 2-141049 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 4,940,954.

5. [] A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitsuaki OSHIMA et al.

By -

riffey R. Filipek

Registration No. 41,471 Attorney for Patentees

JRF/fs Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 December 31, 2002

| Sheet 1 of 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
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| FORM PTO 1449 (7 | | AENT OF COMMER | CE. | ATTY DOCKET NO. 2000_1422 | | | SERIAL NO. 09/686,466 | | | |
| U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LISTOF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) | | | | APPLICANT Mitsuaki OSHIMA et al. | | | | | | |
| LISTOF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) Dass submitted to PTO: December 31, 2002 FFICE *FXAMINER DOCUMENT DATE | | | | FILING DATE October 12, 2000 GROUP 2634 | | | | | | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAI | ME CL | CLASS SUB | | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE | | |
| | АА | 4,940,954 | 7-10-90 | Aubert | et al. | | | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | AJ | 2-141049 | 5-30-90 | Jap | an | | | | х | |
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| | АМ | | | | | | | | | |
| | AN | | | | | | | | | |
| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | | | | |
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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.